

Newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

## The working class must constitute itself the nation and vest sovereignty in the people!

**H**ow do the people become the decision-makers? What is the nature of people's empowerment? Over what will the working class and people

have decision-making power?

These are a number of the questions that have immediately come to mind over the past week or so. Tony Blair has made a

number of speeches, for instance at the Scottish Labour Party Conference, dealing with the question of power, politics and people. David Miliband, who is Minister of Communities and

Local Government, has continued to elaborate the government's thinking on "putting people in control" and the "devolution of power" to the

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## STATE TERRORISM AND ITS JUSTIFICATION



The smoking gun

**T**he Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visited Iraq last week in order to put pressure on Iraqi politicians to form a government that meets with the approval and serves the interests of both

Britain and the US and to try to explain away the crimes carried out by the British army that have recently been exposed in the press. His visit followed threats issued by the US Ambassador to

Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, and reflect the fact that the "democracy" that the Anglo-US forces claim to have brought to Iraq through invasion and following

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### Commentary

## Fourth week of German public service workers' strike

**A** STRIKE AMONG PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS IN MANY PARTS OF GERMANY entered its fourth week on

Monday with no sign that municipalities and states were willing to back down in their demand for longer working hours. The states and municipalities are mainly demanding that all staff increase working time from 38.5 hours per week to 40 hours with no extra pay.

The conflict is the first big strike in public services since 1992. The main public service union, Ver.di, has been extending the strike across Germany. The union Ver.di was created five years ago when five smaller unions joined forces, and is one of the world's largest trade unions, with an esti-

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# Youth & Students

Taking Control of Our Future!

## National student week of action

**T**his last week saw a Week of Action called by the National Union of Students (NUS), part of its priority campaign, "On course... for a fair future?" Variable top-up fees are planned for introduction this year. The current cap on those fees of £3,000 per year is scheduled for review in 2009; earlier this month, speculation was raised of a lift in the cap to perhaps £5,000 at that time (by Sir Howard Newby, the out-going chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, in an interview with the *Times Higher Education Supplement*).

The major event of the week is a national lobby of parliament, followed by a demonstration, on Wednesday. Throughout this week, students are organising

events on campuses, such as holding debates. The NUS has advised students to "think about establishing a theme or question around which the debate can be framed. For example, 'how is increasing market forces in education going to affect the Government's aim of widening participation?'"

The Week of Action also precedes industrial action called by the lecturers' unions AUT and NATFHE, which have voted to strike on March 7. The NUS is supporting this action, and is encouraging students to engage with local trade union activity. The lecturers' unions are striking over pay, but are drawing attention to the contradiction between wages and the supposed extra money from the variable fees.

As the NUS explains, "Local

action will encourage students and their unions to discuss how the changes will affect students in their area, and will involve local community members as well as institutions in generating a debate about what this will mean for all those who are likely to be affected."

Further, "National action in the form of a mass lobby of Parliament on 1st March will give students a chance to directly question their MP on his or her views. This will also provide us with an important opportunity to gauge feeling amongst parliamentarians about any lifting of the cap and make an important initial link with members of parliament." This both suggests the issue of accountability of government and parliament, and exposes the situation

that students are reduced to a level of lobbying and "gauging feeling", making "initial links" with MPs, and so on; in other words, that students are totally marginalised from the decision-making process that directly affects them.

Writing in a personal capacity for *Socialist Worker*, NUS executive officer Suzie Wylie said, "Education is one of the key fronts in Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's full spectrum neo-liberal offensive... Fees are the sharp end of a wider series of attacks on education. Years of underfunding of universities have led to the closure of courses, libraries, departments and campuses. Charges for accommodation in student halls of residence are spiralling. Increasingly student accommodation is being sold off to private companies. The 'profit before people' attitude of New Labour is shifting the financial burden onto ordinary students, contributing to soaring student debt."

She also explained, "On Thursday [16th February], 150 students at Sussex University took part in an angry demonstration against cuts. They are now planning to hold a teach-in to discuss the issues and plan the way forward. On Monday [20th], 200 students occupied the administration building at Swansea University following a demonstration against

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## Workers' Weekly

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## National student week of action

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a library closure. Plans to close courses and privatise halls of residence added to the anger. The Swansea students were set to hold a further demonstration on Wednesday [22nd].

Prior to these events, students from Further Education (FE) colleges across the country attended a lobby at the House of Commons on February 15 under the heading "Loud and Clear". Recent NUS research showed that a significant number of colleges are failing to provide even the basic mechanisms – such as a students' union or student governors – to ensure that students can have their say on college life.

*Workers' Weekly* wholeheartedly supports students in organising their Week of Action. In building a new wave of action in the run-up to the planned introduction of top-up fees, students are again asserting that *Education is a Right!* Furthermore, they are raising their demands for a say in the face of a system that marginalises them from political life and denies them any decision-making role. Students are informing themselves, developing their discussion and are raising key questions such as the issues of the role of market forces and the neo-liberal offensive. At the same time, students have to remain on their guard against the official ideology, which attempts to disorientate the discussion, along with other diversions from their aims.

We call on students not to be diverted from setting their own agenda, and to consolidate their aims, develop their own thinking and put that thinking into action. It is up to students, in working for a positive future for themselves and society, to ensure that their outlook is one of taking control of that future.

# Statement from the Archbishop of York on Guantanamo Bay

**T**he Archbishop of York, the Most Revd and Rt Hon John Sentamu, said on February 23 in response to the suggestion that the Guantanamo Bay situation was an anomaly:

"This is not an anomaly. By 'declaring war on terror' President Bush is perversely applying the rules of engagement which apply in a war situation. But the prisoners are not being regularly visited by the Red

Cross or Red Crescent, which is required by the Geneva Convention. They were not even allowed to be interviewed by the United Nations Human Rights Group.

### A blight on conscience

"In Uganda President Amin did something similar: he did not imprison suspects because he knew that in prison the law would apply to them, so he created spe-

cial places to keep them. If the Guantanamo Bay detainees were on American soil, the law would apply. This is a breach of international law and a blight on the conscience of America."

The Archbishop had previously said (17/02/06)

"The American Government is breaking international law. Whatever they may say about democracy, to hold someone for up to four years without charge clearly indicates a society that is heading towards George Orwell's *Animal Farm*."

### All accountable

"The main building block of a democratic society is that everyone is equal before the law, is innocent until proved otherwise and has the right to legal representation. If the guilt of the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay is beyond doubt, why are the Americans afraid to bring them to trial? Transparency and accountability are the other side of the coin of freedom and responsibility.

"We are all accountable for our actions in spite of circumstances. The events of 9/11 cannot erase the rule of law and international obligations. I back the United Nations Human Rights Commission report, recommending that the US try all the detainees, or free them without further delay. If the US refuses to respond, maybe the Commission should seek a writ of *Habeas Corpus* in a United States Court, or at the Hague."

# DEMONSTRATE MARCH 18

# TROOPS HOME FROM IRAQ



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## State terrorism and its justifications

# STATE TERRORISM AND ITS JUSTIFICATION



**The devastation of Fallujah in Iraq, shows the reality of British and US "liberation". The armed forces of Britain and the US have not only carried out atrocities such as this and the infamous crimes committed in Abu Ghraib but also, so all the evidence suggests, are involved in the day to day violence throughout Iraq which has led to so many deaths.**

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the much-hyped elections held under the guns of the occupiers late last year, is noticeable by its absence. Every day the occupation far from bringing "liberation" to the Iraqi people, lies further exposed for what it is, as more and more atrocities carried out by the occupiers are uncovered and the country becomes ever more violent and unstable.

During his visit Jack Straw

attempted to lecture the Iraqi people about what kind of government they should establish, just as US Ambassador Khalilzad had done, but even the Prime Minister of Iraq, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, not known for his opposition to the occupation, felt compelled to speak out against such blatant interference. The fact is that while Jack Straw and the representative of the US piously preach about the need for a "broad government of national unity" to bring together

"all the different elements" of Iraqi society, everything is being done by the occupying forces to create all the conditions for sectarian strife and civil war. The armed forces of Britain and the US have not only carried out atrocities such

**The Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, visited Iraq last week in order to put pressure on Iraqi politicians to form a government that meets with the approval and serves the interests of both Britain and the US and to try to explain away the crimes carried out by the British army that have recently been exposed in the press.**

as the infamous crimes committed in Abu Ghraib but also, so all the evidence suggests, are both directly and indirectly involved in the day to day violence throughout Iraq which has led to so many deaths.

Although Jack Straw was quick to condemn the bombing of the al-Askari mosque this week, the blame for this outrage has already been laid at the feet of the Iraqi government and the occupation forces. The invasion and occupation of Iraq is itself an illegal act of state terrorism, a breach of international law, that the British government attempts to justify. The invasion has created the conditions for similar acts of terrorism that the government is equally happy to justify. Whilst he was in Iraq last week, Jack Straw even went so far as to praise the British army for operating "according to the rule of law". When asked about the latest video evidence of violent attacks on civilians by the British army and the fact that the Iraqi local authorities in Basra and elsewhere are refusing to work with them, the Foreign Secretary attempted to explain that this violence was just the action of a "tiny minority", while emphasising that British troops acted on behalf of the Iraqi government and were being opposed simply because

they were attempting "to clean up some politics and elements in the Police Service in the South and that is not popular with all politicians".

Any atrocity, any violent or illegal act can now be justified on the grounds that the means justify the end, the end being "democracy" or "liberation" or the "war against terrorism" as defined by the governments of Britain, the US and the other big powers.

Both the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister have again sought to justify US atrocities at Guantanamo Bay, following the release of a damning report prepared for the UN Commission on Human Rights. Although there has been some unease in government circles, the view that is presented is that everything has to be understood in the context of 9/11, which justifies extraordinary measures, even if these breach international law and include torture and other atrocities.

According to the government's thinking, international law is unable to deal with the changed

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circumstances and the threat of "terrorism" therefore it can be ignored by those who have the responsibility of upholding the "universal values" of humanity and waging a "war against terrorism". Thus those who shout loudest about the "rule of law" can now justify flouting it with impunity.

## Fourth week of German public service workers' strike

# Hamburg strikers' views

From an interview with a World Socialist Web Site reporting team

**S**ven Meyer has worked for the sanitation department for 15 years. He said: "I want to stress one thing. We are not just striking here for ourselves. It is not just about the extra 18 minutes a day referred to in the media. It concerns much more. If the European Union directives on service regulations are implemented, the privatisation of virtually all aspects of public service will rapidly increase. Then anyone

can come along and offer rock-bottom wages with no industrial protection or safety standards. Things will really get bad. That not only applies to public service, but also to many craftsmen who already have difficulties making ends meet."

Meyer spoke of a delegation from a nearby engine works who came to express their solidarity with the strikers. "There is a widespread feeling," he said, "that one

can no longer tolerate what is going on."

"Formerly, most businessmen and the big concerns reinvested a part of their profits in their companies to develop production and establish reasonable working conditions for those employed. Today is it completely different. Today money is only extracted."

Meyer said: "If they force us to give in, the repercussions will be bad. Not only will work time be

extended to well over 40 hours, it will also be much more difficult for the union."

Frank Fischer has worked for the sanitation department for 24 years. He compared today's situation with the previous strike: "Today the situation is much more serious. There is much more at stake this time. Perhaps one can say we are standing here on behalf of many others."

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## Fourth week of German public service workers' strike

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mated 2.4 million members. More than 30,000 workers have stopped work across over half of Germany's 16 federal states. The wave of strikes began on February 6 in the southern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Refuse collectors, kindergarten teachers, health workers, civil servants and others are all participating in the strike.

It is evident that workers and their union leaders have been drawing the conclusion that enough is enough, and that there is a necessity for workers to unite and gather their strength through mass mobilisation. Health workers in particular are reported to be solidly behind the strike. Thousands of striking workers took to the streets to demonstrate to coincide with talks between union leaders and federal state representatives in Berlin on February 20. The talks broke up without any agreement.

Many workers are covered by

wage agreements (the workers in the local communities and the workers of the central state). However, others are not covered by such agreements (the workers of the so-called "Länder", the states of the Federal Republic). Those workers are on strike just to get a wage agreement. Others are fighting against the deterioration of the existing wage agreements – especially against longer working hours – as some of the communities revoked existing agreements in order to impose longer working hours on the workers with no increase in pay. Yet a third section of workers, who have significant fighting traditions, are public service workers such as bus drivers and refuse collectors, who have previously won agreements which they see threatened.

The most important focus of the strike is the fight against the extension of working hours from the present 38½ a week. The government wishes to push through an agreement to bring this figure up to 42 hours a week with no

extra pay, as well as trying to cut holiday pay and Christmas bonuses to a minimum.

Because of the intensity of the dispute, the employers are now attempting to get the workers and their unions to concede that younger public sector employees should work 18 minutes longer each day, while older colleagues would only have to work slightly longer, if at all. But this proposal will only be debated again at length during the next central round of negotiations on March 10. Union leaders are pointing out that a longer working week would eventually go hand in hand with the loss of up to 250,000 public sector jobs nationwide. The employers, for their part, are threatening that if the strike continues, the jobs that are at present in the public sector will be put out to private tender. Besides other things, this is an attack on the rights of all workers, involving as it would non-standard and part-time working, contract work and so forth.

The organised workers are regarding the strike as a defining moment for the defence of workers' interests. One of them is reported as saying, "We are pre-

pared, this is our first strike in fourteen years, but given the effrontery of the employers, it was time to strike." In other words, trade unionists are beginning to get to grips with the new reality and staking defence of their interests on fierce class struggle against the ruling elite and the monopolies who are the enemies of all workers, whether they work in the public sector or private enterprises. This ruling elite, following the dictate of the monopolies, is spearheading its attacks against the public sector and the whole conception of the public good.

The public service workers are fighting a struggle faced by the whole of the working class: the fight against a prolongation of working hours. The strike is underlining the necessity for workers and their trade unions to utilise their collective strength to fight for their own interests. It is underlining that the world has changed and no one can act in the old way.

*WW* salutes the struggle of the German public sector workers, and wishes them victory in their fight, which is a decisive one for workers throughout Europe.

## Philippines

# On the St Bernard tragedy

### Statement of the Communist Party of the Philippines on the landslide tragedy in Southern Leyte, Philippines, February 19, 2006

**T**he Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the entire revolutionary movement join the Filipino people at this time of profound sadness at the death of possibly over a thousand people who were buried and many more who were hurt and who have lost their homes, farms and possessions in the mudslides that swamped the Southern Leyte town of St. Bernard last Friday.

The CPP enjoins all revolutionary forces, including the New People's Army (NPA), as well as all democratic organisations in Southern Leyte, to undertake all possible efforts at extending assistance to the rescue and relief operations in the area. The Eastern Visayas Regional Party Committee together with the concerned provincial and front committees are planning out efforts to mobilise its forces and the people in the affected and nearby areas and to muster all possible medical, material and other forms of support for the victims of this tragedy.

The magnitude of the St. Bernard tragedy underscores the extent of the self-interested, irresponsible, and cruel destruction of the environment caused by wanton big-scale logging and mining operations by foreign big capitalists and their local partners since the American colonial period up to the present. The erstwhile

forests and mountainous areas of Southern Leyte have, in fact, been completely logged over since the 1970s, making these vulnerable to landslides and mudslides, especially in the face of large volumes of rainfall as had happened right before the latest mudslides. Over the past two decades, the island of Leyte has seen one environmental catastrophe after another, including the Ormoc tragedy of 1991.

Despite the repeated national clamour to put a stop to the wanton destruction of the environment, especially after the massive landslides in north Quezon and Aurora in 2004, the Arroyo regime has brazenly acted as representative of the biggest plunderers and ravagers of the nation's natural resources. Since 2004, the Arroyo regime has vigorously promoted and campaigned for the expansion and intensification of mining operations by big foreign

companies in the Philippines. It has even mobilised its armed forces to give protection to these companies and suppress protests and resistance to their operations.

Furthermore, it has continued to allow large-scale commercial logging to favour its closest allies and bribe its detractors. In order to win over the ambivalent Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the Arroyo government skirted its own laws and granted the San Jose Timber Company permission to resume its logging activities in close to a hundred thousand hectares of protected forest parks in Samar for another 16 years. DENR Secretary Mike Defensor, however, could not but give in to the overwhelming and vehement protests by the Samareños and various sectors of the people including peasant associations, concerned religious clergy, envi-

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lary those engaged in human rights work. Therefore, there is well-founded fear among human rights defenders in the Philippines that this proclamation may soon lead to arbitrary arrests and detention, and wanton violence.

The Asian Human Rights Commission is deeply concerned for the wellbeing and safety of all Filipinos at this time, especially human rights defenders and social activists. Its calls for firm public commitments from the president of the Philippines and other government officials that these persons will not be made targets, and those engaging in peaceful public protest will not be met with violence by the security forces. Let the spirit of 1986 – a spirit of peaceful protest, not bloodshed – live on.

*\* The Asian Human Rights Commission is a regional non-governmental organisation monitoring and lobbying human rights issues in Asia. The Hong Kong-based group was founded in 1984.*

## Philippines:

# State of emergency must not be used to attack human rights defenders

### A Statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission\*, February 24, 2006

**T**his Friday, February 24, 2006, a state of emergency was declared in the Philippines.

Through Proclamation No. 1017 the president has banned all public rallies and greatly restricted constitutional rights, alleging that, "A tactical alliance [is engaging] in a concerted and systematic conspiracy, over a broad front, to bring down the duly constituted govern-

ment". There are reports of an attempted coup, although the proclamation does not refer to one specifically.

There can be little doubt that the primary objective of this declaration is to stifle growing public protests against the current government. It comes at a time of planned demonstrations to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the toppling of the authoritarian

Marcos regime: the most important landmark in the country's modern struggle for democracy and human rights. These gatherings have been planned as a way to reinvigorate people with the spirit of 1986, and to nurture the values embodied by the "people's power" uprising. The rallies were also expected to be used by many to voice discontent with the current administration.

In states of emergency the groups and persons that come under attack most are those that insist upon their rights to free expression and assembly, particu-



# Resistance is our responsibility and only option, says Iran's Parliament Speaker



**G**holam Ali Haddad Adel, speaker of the Iranian Parliament, addressed students and teachers at the main auditorium of the University of Havana on February 16 where he described resistance as “our responsibility and only option”.

Fielding questions from students, the parliamentary leader asserted that “although there is no logical reason for the United States to attack Iran, or even to take the issue to the UN Security Council, our people are on alert and ready to respond to any attack”. “We just hope that the US government is not so foolish as to launch such an action,” he warned.

## Double standards

Haddad Adel briefed the audience on the progress made in science and education in Iran during the 27 years of its Islamic

Revolution. “Iranian scientists have the knowledge for the peaceful use of nuclear energy,” he said.

He assured that justice is the main pillar of the Islamic religion and criticized the double standard used by the United States and other Western countries, who he said distort concepts such as human rights and democracy.

## Criticism a pretext

He noted that while Cuba and Iran are accused by the US as human rights violators, the world is witnessing events such as the tortures and humiliations against prisoners held at the Guantanamo Naval Base, Abu Ghraib and other US detention facilities.

“They want to punish Iran because it is working on the development of nuclear energy with peaceful purposes while at the same time they support Israel, currently holding some 200 nuclear

warheads, and which is neither a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nor has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty,” he noted.

Haddad Adel told reporters at a press conference in Havana that “the desire to be able to use nuclear energy is not only the desire of the government or the political parties in Iran but is a popular and unanimous decision of the Iranian people”. He added that US criticism of Iran’s nuclear programme is only a “pretext to demonstrate its dislike against the Iranian revolution”.

## Developing an alliance

Haddad Adel received a warm reception in Cuba, where he arrived after visiting Venezuela. Cuban National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon vowed to continue backing Iran’s effort to resist pressure from the UN

Security Council. Cuba is one of three nations, along with Venezuela and Syria, to vote against referring Iran to the UN Security Council over its nuclear programme.

Following that vote, the IAEA reported Iran to the Security Council on February 4 and urged it to suspend all uranium-enrichment activities. Iran responded by partly halting its cooperation with the IAEA and ending a more than two-year suspension of uranium enrichment.

Commentators say that Haddad Adel’s trip to Cuba and Venezuela is designed to shore up support for Iran’s nuclear position before a possible UN showdown, but that it is also part of a broader plan by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to develop an alliance of like-minded countries to oppose the United States.

## Philippines On the St Bernard tragedy

**Statement of the Communist Party of the Philippines on the landslide tragedy in Southern Leyte, Philippines, February 19, 2006**

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environmentalists and middle forces.

It is utterly criminal for the Arroyo regime to urge the expansion and intensification of big-scale commercial and foreign mining and logging operations in

the country, knowing full well how these rob the national patrimony, destroy the environment and endanger the lives of millions of people.

The Filipino people reject the crocodile tears being shed by Gloria Arroyo over the St.

Bernard tragedy. They denounce the government’s lack of immediate effective response and sufficient facilities for disaster response as a result of Arroyo’s prioritising the military and debt-payments. The failure to immediately send in the urgently needed power generators, helicopters and even thermal sensors that are prioritised for military, espionage and other purposes had delayed the rescue efforts and lessened the probability of saving more lives.

The CPP and all revolutionary forces support fully the open mass movement’s all out campaign to

put a stop to the US-Arroyo regime’s subservience to interests of big foreign capitalists and their local lackeys and their wanton plunder and destruction of the environment. At the same time, the New People’s Army (NPA), the local organs of people’s democratic political power and the entire revolutionary movement shall undertake the necessary revolutionary actions to contribute to the people’s resistance against large-scale destructive mining and logging and enforce the environmental policies of the revolutionary government.

# The working class must constitute itself the nation and vest sovereignty in the people!

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people. And the Power Inquiry ("an independent inquiry into Britain's democracy", the centenary project of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust) has released its final report entitled "Power to the People". In other words, the issue of people's empowerment has become an issue of the moment, in the context of the crisis of representative democracy and the concentration of executive power in the hands of the Prime Minister and a handful of Cabinet ministers.

The Rowntree Trusts approach the problem from the angle of radical reform, in essence of a revitalisation of the parliamentary reform movement of the early and mid 19th century in the wake of the French Revolution. In this regard, the solution, which they

stress is urgently needed, is a "major programme of reform to give power back to the people of Britain".

## New Labour corporatism

Tony Blair, in addressing his own New Labour troops, has also tried to cast the Labour Party in the mould of radicalism. But the thrust of his and Miliband's arguments is quite different. They are taking forward the position staked in the opening shots of the election campaign when Alan Milburn asserted that the election would be one of New Labour winning power so as to hand power over to the people. It is interesting that in setting the context for this elaboration, Tony Blair explains that "modern politics is almost a conspiracy against understanding". But Blair is such a dyed-in-the-wool advocate of the values of capitalism and competing in the

global market that his contribution dramatically deepens the conspiracy. His programme is one of corporatism in the name of "making the hard decisions" to make the lives of the people "better".

## The "third sector"

The New Labour argument develops from the twin issues of the "strategic state" which "pushes power down to the people" and the call for a growth of volunteerism and local charitable work. In this scenario, power is devolved from central to local government, and then from local government to the voluntary sector, which is labelled the "third sector" of British society. It is evident that this scenario dovetails into the programme of neo-liberalism and privatisation of social programmes being carried out by the government under the fraudulent banner of giving "choice" to the "consumer". Thus the so-called "investment with reform" programme, which is enriching the private sector and causing crisis and havoc with health and education, is to be bolstered with a new phase of "partnership between state and the third sector". A "Compact Commissioner" is to be established, whose brief is to do with contracts with the voluntary sector, and overcome the crisis in the welfare state, in other words to assist in devolving responsibility from government to the people for the state of the crisis caused by the

social and political system.

The crux of this argument is, as Miliband says, that "the mission for the 21st century must be to spread power to citizens both to act individually and collectively. Delivering this mission requires reforms to markets and to government. But the third leg of the stool – the third leg without which the other two are of limited use – is the voluntary sector. The third sector is the supplier of power to individuals and communities."

## Need for democratic renewal

What kind of power is this? How can this be a way out of the crisis when the people have no power, for example, to decide the direction of the economy, to dictate questions of foreign policy, of war and peace and security. Is it not primarily a mechanism for making the people complicit and responsible for the so-called national and universal values, for indoctrinating the people with the New Labour ideology which is supposed to work for the whole people, for obscuring that supreme power lies with the financial oligarchy, and for maintaining this dictate with the royal prerogative intact?

Society and its political system and institutions stand in urgent need of democratic renewal. The working class needs to be in a position of power to take hold of the wealth it produces and apply it for the public good, and vest sovereignty in the people.

## Hamburg strikers' views

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Frank Jung said: "There is all this talk of responsibility – individual responsibility. But what the government is doing is completely irresponsible. They can bring about the greatest misery, but take responsibility for nothing, exactly like the employers."

Margarete Hagemeister is a single parent. "Whoever works part-time usually has to carry the

workload of a full-time job."

"In addition to my work here I am also a teacher, because the schools have no more money and an increasing number of school hours are being lost. Recently at a parents' evening it was decided that parents should train themselves in certain teaching subjects. Work folders were put together. Besides being a teacher and a public worker, I am still a charwoman, washerwoman, cook."

## Workers' Daily Internet Edition

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## MAY DAY MARCH AND RALLY FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

1st may  
**may day**  
**2006**

It has now been confirmed that the May 1 March and Rally for Employment Rights will assemble at Clerkenwell Green in London N1 at 12noon with the rally in Trafalgar Square starting at 2.30pm